

-DRAFT

**INITIAL STUDY
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**



**PLUMAS EUREKA SKI BOWL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
Plumas Eureka State Park**

May 2006



State of California
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

DATE: MAY 15, 2006

To: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND INTENT TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED
NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED PLUMAS SKI BOWL IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT**

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has directed the preparation of and intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the proposed project, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. DPR is the lead agency for the proposed project under CEQA.

Project Location: Plumas Eureka State Park

Description of the Proposed Project:

The general project description is to upgrade and modernize the facilities of the ski bowl including; replacing the poma ski lift with a chair lift, cleaning up and abating hazards and hazardous materials, making all facilities accessible as required by law, improving the potable water facilities, improving the restrooms, replacing the existing diesel generators with propane generators. Some old out buildings will be demolished. New facilities to be constructed include a new 2000 square foot maintenance/storage building and a power station building. The hours of operation of the ski bowl will be standardized from 9 am to 4 pm. The days of operation may be expanded from weekends only to include some week days.

Public Review Period:

The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 30 days, beginning May 15, 2006. Written comments should be submitted no later than June 13, 2006, to the following address:

Ken Anderson
California State Parks
Sierra District
P.O Box 266
Tahoma, CA 96142

Copies of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration may be reviewed at the following locations during normal business hours:

Plumas Eureka State Park Museum
310 Johnsville Rd.
Blairsden, CA 96103

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
One Capitol Mall - Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95814

California State Parks
Sierra District
7360 Westlake Blvd
Tahoma, CA 96142

Quincy Public Library
445 West Jackson
Quincy California 95971

Portola Public Library
34 Third Ave
Portola, CA 96122

Your views and comments on potential impacts of the project on the environment are welcomed.

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

PROJECT: Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl Improvements

LEAD AGENCY: California Department of Parks and Recreation

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS:

The Initial Study for this Mitigated Negative Declaration is available for review at:

Plumas Eureka State Park Museum
310 Johnsville Rd.
Blairsden, CA 96103

California State Parks
Northern Service Center
One Capitol Mall - Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95814

California State Parks
Sierra District
7360 Westlake Blvd
Tahoma, CA 96142

Quincy Public Library
445 West Jackson
Quincy California 95971

Portola Public Library
34 Third Ave
Portola, CA 96122

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The general project description is to upgrade and modernize the facilities of the ski hill including the ski lift to a chair lift, make all facilities accessible as required by law, improve the potable water facilities, improve the restrooms, and replace the current fuel system from diesel to propane. New facilities to be constructed include a new 2000 square foot maintenance/storage building and a power station building, and possibly a water treatment building. The days of operation of the ski hill may be expanded from weekends to include some week days. The hours of operation will be standardized from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

A copy of the Initial Study is attached. Questions or comments regarding this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration may be addressed to:

Ken Anderson, Project Manager
Sierra District
PO Box 266
Tahoma, CA 96142
Tele: 530.525.9535
Email: kande@parks.ca.gov

Ken Anderson, Senior Environmental Scientist

Date

The California Department of Parks and Recreation proposed to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project, pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 - California Code of Regulations), regarding the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.). If there are significant changes in the character of the project before it is implemented, another environmental impact determination will be made.

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the proposed project and finds that these documents reflect the independent judgment of DPR. DPR, as lead agency, also confirms that the project mitigation measures detailed in these documents are feasible and will be implemented as stated in the Negative Declaration.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

This Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl Improvements Project at Plumas Eureka State Park, Plumas County, California. This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code §21000 *et seq.*, and the State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR) §15000 *et seq.*

An Initial Study is conducted by a lead agency to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment [CEQA Guidelines §15063(a)]. If there is substantial evidence that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15064(a). However, if the lead agency determines that revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant mitigate the potentially significant effects to a less-than-significant level, a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) may be prepared instead of an EIR [CEQA Guidelines §15070(b)]. The lead agency prepares a written statement describing the reasons a proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, why an EIR need not be prepared. This IS/MND conforms to the content requirements under CEQA Guidelines §15071.

1.2 LEAD AGENCY

The lead agency is the public agency with primary approval authority over the proposed project. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15051(b)(1), "the lead agency will normally be an agency with general governmental powers, such as a city or county, rather than an agency with a single or limited purpose." The lead agency for the proposed project is DPR. The contact person for the lead agency is:

Ken Anderson, Project Manager
Sierra District
PO Box 266
Tahoma, CA 96142
Tele: 530.525.9535
Email: kande@parks.ca.gov

1.3 PURPOSE AND DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The purpose of this document is to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl Improvements Project at Plumas Eureka State Park. Mitigation measures have also been incorporated into the project to eliminate any potentially significant impacts or reduce them to a less-than-significant level.

This document is organized as follows:

- **Chapter 1 - Introduction.**

This chapter provides an introduction to the project and describes the purpose and organization of this document.

- **Chapter 2 - Project Description.**

This chapter describes the reasons for the project, scope of the project, and project objectives.

- **Chapter 3 - Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures.**

This chapter identifies the significance of potential environmental impacts, explains the environmental setting for each environmental issue, and evaluates the potential impacts identified in the CEQA Environmental Checklist. Mitigation measures are incorporated, where appropriate, to reduce potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level.

- **Chapter 4 - Summary of Mitigation Measures.**

This chapter summarizes the mitigation measures incorporated into the project as a result of the Initial Study.

- **Chapter 5 - References.**

This chapter identifies the references and sources used in the preparation of this IS/MND, and includes a list of those preparing the report.

1.4 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Chapter 3 of this document contains the Environmental Checklist that identifies the potential environmental impacts (by environmental issue) and a brief discussion of each impact resulting from implementation of the proposed project. Based on the Environmental Checklist and the supporting environmental analysis provided in this document, the proposed Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl Improvements Project at Plumas Eureka State Park would result in less than significant impacts for the following issues: agricultural resources, noise, air quality, biological resources, geology and soils, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, and cumulative impacts.

Based on the Environmental Checklist and the supporting environmental analysis provided in this document the proposed project could have substantial impacts on aesthetics, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, transportation/traffic, and utilities and service systems if mitigation was not proposed and implemented to reduce the impacts below a level of significance.

In accordance with §15064(f) of the CEQA Guidelines, a Mitigated Negative Declaration shall be prepared if the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment after the inclusion of mitigation measures in the project. Based on the available project information and the environmental analysis presented in this document, there is no substantial evidence that, after the incorporation of mitigation measures, the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment. It is proposed that a Mitigated Negative Declaration be adopted in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines.

CHAPTER 2

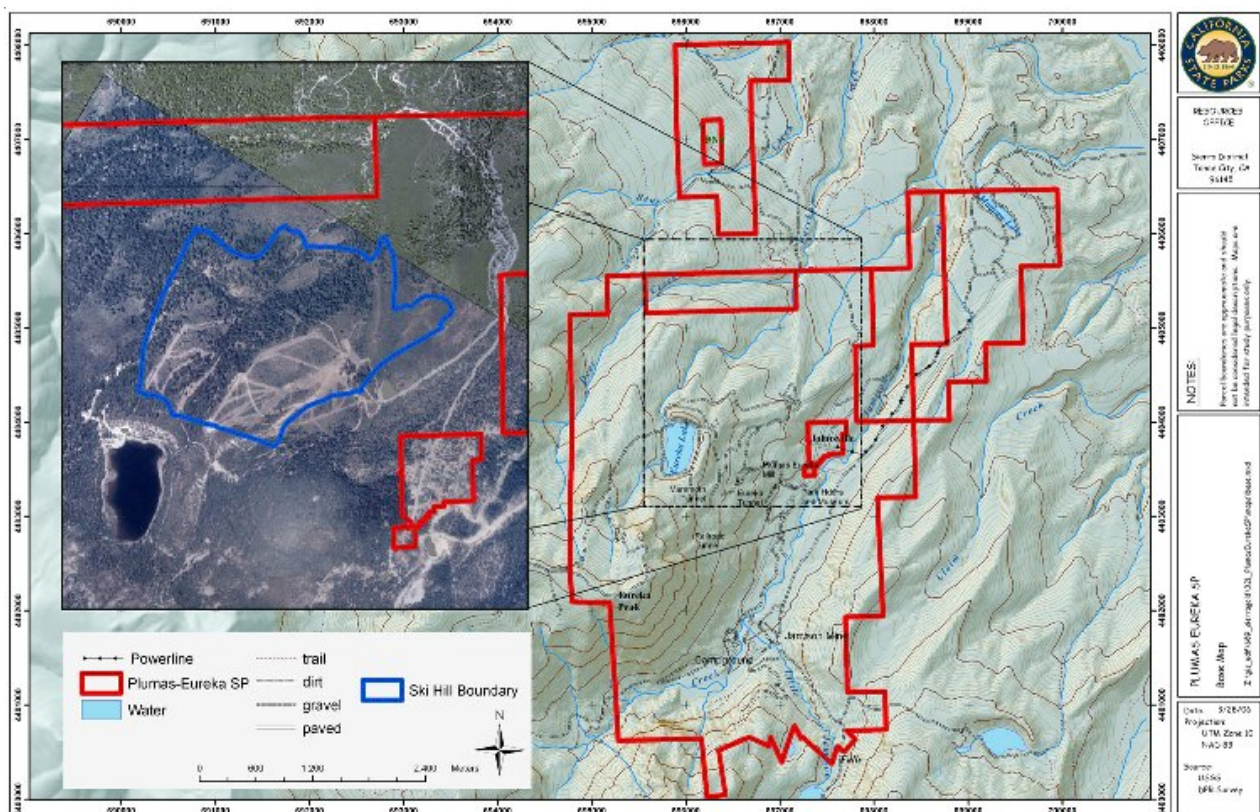
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This IS/MND evaluates the environmental effects of the proposed Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl Improvements Project. The project would result in upgraded and improved facilities at the ski hill. The main improvement would be to replace the existing poma ski lift with a chair lift. Hours of operation would be expanded from weekends only to include some weekdays. It is anticipated use would eventually increase from a historic average of 4800 skiers per year or 125 skiers per day to about 10,000 skiers per year or 250 skiers per day. On maximum, peak weekends (events and holidays) daily use is expected to be 500 skiers per day.

2.2 PROJECT LOCATION

The project is located in the Sierra Nevada Range in Plumas Eureka State Park just north of Johnsville California in Plumas County. Located on the Gold Lake and Johnsville 7.5 minute quadrangles, the project site can be found at T 22 N, R 11 E, Sections 13, 14, and 23. The Graeagle Johnsville Road (County Road A-14) terminates at the parking lot for the ski hill.



2.3 BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT



1 Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl

The Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl has a long history of downhill skiing. Ski races between miners were held beginning in the 1850s on the same ski runs still used today. Communities in Plumas County have operated a winter ski facility at this site since 1954, when the Plumas Ski Club (PSC) was incorporated as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

The PSC operated surface tows and lifts from 1955 onward, under a special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service. In 1958 the lodge was constructed. In 1959 Plumas Eureka State Park was established by the California State Legislature. The PSC installed the existing Squaw poma lift in 1963 (called Squaw because it came from the 1960 Olympics at Squaw Valley).

In 1970, the Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl was incorporated into Plumas Eureka State Park through a land exchange with the U.S. Forest Service. The PSC continued operation of the ski bowl under a concession agreement with California State Parks. A second poma lift was installed in 1975. In the spring of 1999, the Gold Mountain Foundation took over operation of the ski bowl until 2003, when the PSC again assumed responsibility for operations.

Over the years the ski bowl operators have had a very cooperative relationship with local school ski programs with many of the youth of the county learning how to first ski at the hill. Community organizers have expressed a desire to resume these educational community building programs.

Over the past several years the equipment and facilities at the ski bowl have become outmoded and unreliable for the PSC to operate consistently. A poma lift is basically a surface tow system where a seat or wood slat attached to a rope tow pulls the person up the slope while their skis remain in contact

with the snow surface. With the increased popularity of snow boarding the poma lift system has proven to be particularly obsolete as it is very difficult for most snow boarders to competently stay under control while being pulled up the hill.



2 Old Poma Lift Infrastructure

Currently, during the winter season, the area is used by the PSC to conduct the Longboard Race Revival Series, which features longboard racers in period garb, skiing on handmade versions of the original 12-16 foot wooden skis. Snow conditions permitting, at least three ski events are held each winter. Under current operations the ski bowl is closed for regular business because of the lack of funds to repair and maintain the old lift system.

Over the years, the ski bowl attracted an average of 4800 skiers a year with a high of 10,000 skiers in 1972, and several other years with 6,000 to 8,000 skiers. As the only downhill skiing facility in the region, the facility was heavily used by local schools, providing many children with their first skiing experience. The Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl facility has been a focal point of unique skiing and mining heritage, providing an opportunity to educate the public about the mining heritage of the site and offering outdoor recreation.

2.4 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objective of the project is to improve and upgrade the existing facilities of the Plumas Eureka Ski

Bowl.

2.5 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

DPR, working through local and county entities, proposes the improvements for the Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl. The following is a summary of the planned improvements:

- 1) Replacement of the existing 40 year old poma surface lift with a chair lift. A chair lift will make the ski hill more accessible to all skiers including those skiers with disabilities, and snowboarders.
- 2) All facilities required to meet current accessibility standards will be brought up to code.
- 3) The existing lodge will be upgraded with deck and stair handrails, new foundation supports added where needed, structural repairs performed, storage areas added, and electrical, plumbing, and venting upgrades installed as required by current building codes and standards.
- 4) The old lift generators will be replaced with new, quieter, more efficient models and moved from behind the lodge to near the parking lot.
- 5) The potable water system will be upgraded as needed to comply with all State Department of Health Services regulations. This may require construction of a water treatment facility near the water source or construction of a well. The maximum area of disturbance would be 40 x 40 feet. The quantity of water used is expected to remain approximately the same as the historic use.
- 6) The restrooms near the lodge will be upgraded to meet accessibility standards. The septic system will be evaluated and upgraded as needed.
- 7) The old maintenance building may be dismantled or renovated and reutilized for storage of ski patrol equipment, fencing etc. A new maintenance building will be constructed near the parking lot. The building will be constructed using non-glare materials that will be compatible with the surroundings. The building will house maintenance equipment, the generator(s) and fuel storage materials. The new location next to the parking lot will provide easier access for fuel and supply delivery.
- 8) The hours of operation will be standardized from 9 am to 4 pm. The days of operation will be increased from weekends only to include some week days.
- 9) A Vegetation Maintenance Program will be developed to treat ski run vegetation on a more regular and frequent schedule. This program will be developed under a separate proposal and CEQA document.
- 10) All hazardous material issues will be mitigated as part of the improvements project.
- 11) All building code violations will be corrected that are necessary for the operation of the facilities.
- 12) A Storm Water Drainage Plan will be developed and implemented as part of the project.

2.6 PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

At this time there have been no funds identified to implement the proposed improvements. When funding becomes available a project construction schedule will be developed. If funding is secured in fiscal year 2006/07, construction could begin as early as summer/fall of 2006.

2.7 VISITATION

Visitation statistics for the Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl were kept from 1965 until 1999. The average number of skiers per year during that time period was 4800 or 125 skiers per day for the ski season. The high year was 1972-73 with about 10,000 skiers (250 per day) coming to the ski bowl. The low year

was 1990-91 when there were 0 skiers due to lack of snow. Visitation since 1999 has been sporadic, because of ski bowl closures associated with equipment failures, and management changes.

2.8 CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL PLANS AND POLICIES

The area is zoned by the Plumas County General Plan as General Forest. Plumas County strongly supports the proposed ski bowl upgrades. The improvements will increase winter recreation and visitation to the county and may add jobs to an area deficient in jobs.

2.9 DISCRETIONARY APPROVALS

DPR has approval authority for the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration at the Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl in Plumas Eureka State Park.

2.10 RELATED PROJECTS

There are no known projects planned or proposed related to this project.

CHAPTER 3

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Title: Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl Improvements Project
2. Lead Agency Name & Address: California Department of Parks and Recreation
1416 Ninth Street
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001
3. Contact Person & Phone Number: Ken Anderson
530. 525-9535
kande@parks.ca.gov
4. Project Location: Plumas Eureka State Park
310 Johnsville Road
Blairsden, CA 96103
5. Project Sponsor Name & Address: Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks)
Sierra District
PO Box 266
Tahoma, CA
6. General Plan Designation: Important Timber
7. Zoning: General Forest
8. Description of Project: Upgrade facilities at the Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl
9. Surrounding Land Uses & Setting: Refer to Chapter 3 of this document
(Section IX, Land Use Planning)
10. Approval Required from Other Public Agencies: California Dept. of Health Services

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

If implemented as written, this project could result in a "Potentially Significant Impact" involving at least one area of the environmental factors checked below, as indicated in the Initial Study on the following pages.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | <input type="checkbox"/> None |

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared. ☐

I find that, although the original scope of the proposed project **COULD** have had a significant effect on the environment, there **WILL NOT** be a significant effect because revisions/mitigations to the project have been made by or agreed to by the applicant. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared. ☒

I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** or its functional equivalent will be prepared. ☐

I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated impact" on the environment. However, at least one impact has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document, pursuant to applicable legal standards, and has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis, as described in the report's attachments. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the impacts not sufficiently addressed in previous documents. ☐

I find that, although the proposed project could have had a significant effect on the environment, all potentially significant effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, pursuant to applicable standards, and have been avoided or mitigated, pursuant to an earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project. Therefore, all impacts have been avoided or mitigated to a less-than-significant level and no further action is required. ☐

Ken Anderson

Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers, except "No Impact", that are adequately supported by the information sources cited. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact does not apply to the project being evaluated (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on general or project-specific factors (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must consider the whole of the project-related effects, both direct and indirect, including off-site, cumulative, construction, and operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, the checklist answers must indicate whether that impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate when there is sufficient evidence that a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change may occur in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project that cannot be mitigated below a level of significance. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required.
4. A "Mitigated Negative Declaration" (Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated) applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures, prior to declaration of project approval, has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR (including a General Plan) or Negative Declaration [CCR, Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA, § 15063(c)(3)(D)]. References to an earlier analysis should:
 - a) Identify the earlier analysis and state where it is available for review.
 - b) Indicate which effects from the environmental checklist were adequately analyzed in the earlier document, pursuant to applicable legal standards, and whether these effects were adequately addressed by mitigation measures included in that analysis.
 - c) Describe the mitigation measures in this document that were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and indicate to what extent they address site-specific conditions for this project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate references to information sources for potential impacts into the checklist or appendix (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances, biological assessments). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should include an indication of the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. A source list should be appended to this document. Sources used or individuals contacted should be listed in the source list and cited in the discussion.
8. Explanation(s) of each issue should identify:
 - a) the criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate the significance of the impact addressed by each question and
 - b) the mitigation measures, if any, prescribed to reduce the impact below the level of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The Environmental Analysis (Initial) Checklist was prepared to assess the proposed project's impact on the environment. The environmental setting for each topic describes the conditions currently existing at the project site. Potential environmental impacts, identified by checklist point, are addressed in the discussion section. For each impact identified as "less than significant with mitigation", mitigation measures have been specified to reduce the impact to a less than significant level.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

I. AESTHETICS.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl is located in the Sierra Nevada mountain range in Plumas Eureka State Park. The area is typical of the mountain range, consisting primarily of mixed conifer forest, fields of ceanothus and manzanita, steep mountains and narrow canyons. The dominant topographic feature of the ski bowl itself is Eureka Peak to the west of the bowl. The ski bowl is visible from the east in Mohawk valley, about three miles away. The ski runs are barely visible from Mohawk Valley, and one would be hard pressed to see any of the existing ski hill facilities such as the poma lifts from that distance.

| WOULD THE PROJECT: | <u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>NO IMPACT</u> |
|--|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

DISCUSSION

- a) The historic ski runs originally cleared of forest many decades ago, blend in with the surrounding mountain sides from scenic vistas several miles away. The vegetation pattern of the surrounding region consists of mixed conifer forest interspersed with large tracks of brush, primarily manzanita. This is similar to the vegetation pattern of the ski runs where manzanita occupies the areas cleared of trees. Proposed development would be similar in form to the existing development. The chairlift top terminal would be enclosed in a building resembling a mining shack, consistent with the history of Plumas Eureka State Park as a significant site for gold mining in the 1800s. Less than significant impact.
- b) All of the improvements proposed for the ski bowl, that may be visible from a scenic highway (Highway 70), will be placed in essentially the same foot print where the current facilities are located. No impact.
- c) The proposed facilities will be designed to blend in well with the existing visual character of the site and surroundings. The towers of the chair lift will be painted in dark colors to blend with surrounding site characteristics. Buildings will be themed in a mining vernacular, consistent with

the existing development at the site and consistent with the mining history of the region. No facilities will be placed along ridge lines. Less than significant with mitigation.

- d) The ski bowl will not operate during the night (except for grooming equipment) and no additional lighting is proposed as a part of this project. No impact.

| |
|--|
| MITIGATION MEASURE S |
| I. c The lift towers will be painted in dark colors to blend with surroundings. No facilities will be placed along ridgelines where they would be more visible. The new maintenance building will be constructed of non-glare materials to blend in with the surroundings. |
| |

II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Plumas Eureka State Park is a 6000 acre Sierra Nevada park. The proposed project is located in the park. The park contains no agricultural resources.

| | <u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>NO IMPACT</u> |
|--|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| WOULD THE PROJECT*: | | | | |
| a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

* In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997), prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model for use in assessing impacts on agricultural and farmland.

DISCUSSION

- a) The project will not result in the conversion of any farmland. No impact.
- b) The project does not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. No impact.
- c) The project will not result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use. No impact.

| MITIGATION MEASURE |
|--------------------|
| ▪ none proposed |

III. AIR QUALITY.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl is located within the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD). The District is located in a rural part of California with little industry or traffic. Normal wind patterns are westerly afternoon flows and calm nights. According to the NSAQMD the general air quality is very good around the project site in Plumas Eureka State Park. The District is currently considered in attainment for all the federal standards, but is in non-attainment for the state standard for particulate matter less than 10 microns diameter (PM 10) in some areas. A new standard, PM 2.5, is replacing the old PM 10 standard for particulates. The District was in attainment for PM 2.5 standards. For 2005, the NSAQMD was in attainment with the California standards for carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, sulfates, lead (particulate) and ozone. An area is designated in attainment if the state standard for the specified pollutant was not violated at any site during a three-year period.

The District's state non-attainment designation for ozone in some years is deemed to be due to transport of ozone and its precursors from upwind areas, mainly the Sacramento Valley and the San Francisco bay area. This transport has relieved the District and its constituents from many of the more burdensome state requirements, but could be rescinded if the emissions of ozone precursors originating from within the District are not kept below the levels at which violations would occur in the absence of the transport contribution.

| | <u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>NO IMPACT</u> |
|--|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| WOULD THE PROJECT*: | | | | |
| a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan or regulation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations (e.g., children, the elderly, individuals with compromised respiratory or immune systems)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

* Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied on to make these determinations.

DISCUSSION

- a) Implementation of the proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of any air quality plan or regulation in place in the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District. No impact.
- b) The project site is in an alpine environment with no known air quality violations. While skiers, cars, groomers, and generators will emit CO, PM 10 and PM 2.5 particulates, the levels generated onsite are expected to be well below state and federal standards. All equipment will meet current regulations for emissions and any required permits from the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District. Ozone attainment standards are not an issue in the winter when the facility will be operating. Less than significant impact.
- c) The project site is in an alpine environment with no known air quality violations. While skiers, cars, groomers, and generators will emit CO, and PM 2.5 particulates, the levels generated onsite are expected to be well below state and federal standards. Ozone attainment standards are not an issue in the winter when the facility will be operating.

Cumulatively, the majority of the vehicle use at the ski area will be during the winter. Refer to the traffic analysis section XV for details. The project area is in attainment for all criteria pollutants. Less than significant impact.

- d) While skiers, cars, groomers and generators CO, PM10 and PM 2.5, the levels generated onsite are expected to be well below NAAQS or any other standards. No impact.
- e) Although more cars may produce some objectionable odors the increase is not expected to be significant and is still well below summer averages. Less than significant impact.

| MITIGATION MEASURE |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None proposed |

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed project is located in Plumas Eureka State Park, located 20 miles east of Portola, 45 miles south of Quincy, and 75 miles north of Truckee. The park surrounds Eureka Peak (formally Gold Mountain), the most dominant geographic feature in the park. The elevation range for the park is 4290 feet near Madora Lake to 7447 feet at the top of Eureka Peak.

Vegetation in the park is primarily mixed conifer. Riparian corridors of alder and willow lie in the canyon bottoms along with scattered meadows. Along ridge tops and south-facing slopes extensive brush fields of manzanita grow.

The park is home to many mammals and bird species with fewer amphibians and reptiles, all typical to the Sierra Nevada mountain range.

A biological assessment for the project was completed by Pacific Northwestern Biological Resources Consultants, Inc.. The report is included in the appendix. Additional surveys were conducted by park staff.

The ski bowl is situated near the northern Sierra Nevada crest where winter activities of native plants and animals are limited by winter climate. The growing season here is only a few months, the plants and animals reproductive seasons correspondingly short. During this more active period, the only human activity associated with the ski bowl is limited to maintenance of the vegetation and facilities. Also, cars travel through the ski bowl on the way to Eureka Lake.

The elevation range of the ski bowl is from 5,500 to 6,300 ft., with the general aspect to the east. The habitats within the bowl have been modified over the years, first by mining activities, later by ski run vegetation maintenance. The hill sides were most likely covered in mixed conifer forest at one time. Now, shrub vegetation, made up primarily of manzanita and whitethorn, dominate the slopes. Trees have been periodically removed from the slopes to keep the ski runs open.

A literature and database review for biological resources was conducted. The California Department of Fish and Game's Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) contains records of only one sensitive species in the area of Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl: Quincy Lupine (*Lupinus dalesiae*). The plant has not been found in the ski bowl. The report is included in the appendix.

A field evaluation for biological resources was conducted as part of the assessment. Approximately 30 hours were spent on site spread over May, June, July and September. No individual listed plant or animal species were found with the Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl. A list of plant and animal species observed is included in the appendix.

LESS THAN

| | <u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>NO IMPACT</u> |
|---|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| WOULD THE PROJECT: | | | | |
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification, on any species identified as a sensitive, candidate, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, of the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands, as defined by §404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

DISCUSSION

- a) No such species or its habitat, have been identified on the site. No impact
- b) No such habitat has been identified on the site. No impact.
- c) No wetlands exist on the site. No impact.
- d) No streams or identified migratory corridors are present on the site. No impact.
- e) No local ordinances protecting biological resources will be affected by the proposed project. No impact.
- f) There is no adopted habitat or conservation plan for the area. No impact.

| MITIGATION MEASURE |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None proposed |

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Plumas Eureka State Park protects and interprets a long history of hard rock mining dating back to the mid-1800s. As such, it is hard to go anywhere in the park and not come across artifacts and implements associated with this mining history. Prehistorically, the Maidu people lived in the mountains of Plumas County beginning around 1,000 BP, but possibly much earlier.

An archeological reconnaissance of the Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl was conducted as part of the proposed project by Eleana Inc., and supplemented by reconnaissance by Department archaeologists. The reconnaissance consisted of both a records search and ground surveys. The results of the reconnaissance are included in the report attached to this document. In general, only one historic feature, attributed to the mining era, was found within the project site, that could be impacted by the proposed project. It is recommended for protection during construction activities.

The proposed project was presented to the appropriate Native American representatives for comment and consultation as required by the Department's Native American Consultation Policy and Senate Bill 18, Chapter 905, Statutes of 2004. Comments from concerned tribal members and Department responses are included in the appendix.

| | <u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>NO IMPACT</u> |
|--|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| WOULD THE PROJECT: | | | | |
| a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, as defined in §15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource, pursuant to §15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

DISCUSSION

- a) An archeological reconnaissance was completed for the project by Gregory H. Henton, Elena Incorporated. The report concluded the project had the potential to affect a historic linear feature found within the project site. It is recommended the chairlift be designed to avoid it and protect it during construction activities through avoidance. Less than significant impact with mitigation.
- b) No archeological sites have been identified within the project area and no clearing of vegetation or grading will take place within any archeological site. The alteration or removal of any historic or archaeological features will be subject to Public Resources Code 5024.5 review requirements. In addition, this draft mitigated negative declaration will be presented to the appropriate Native American representatives for comment and consultation as required by the Department's Native American Consultation Policy and Senate Bill 18, Chapter 905, Statutes of 2004. No impact.

- c) No known human remains exist on the site. No impact.

| |
|---|
| MITIGATION MEASURE V-A |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Avoid the linear feature identified in the report by flagging it to mark it and keeping all equipment away from during construction activities. The alteration or removal of any historic or archaeological features will be subject to Public Resources Code 5024.5 review requirements. In addition, this draft mitigated negative declaration will be presented to the appropriate Native American representatives for comment and consultation as required by the Department's Native American Consultation Policy and Senate Bill 18, Chapter 905, Statutes of 2004. |

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Plumas Eureka State Park lies within the Sierra Nevada geologic province. The geology of the area is very complex, consisting of Quaternary alluvial deposits, Cenozoic volcanic rocks, Mesozoic granitic rocks, and Mesozoic and Paleozoic weakly metamorphosed rocks. The geologic structure is highly complex due to extensive faulting and folding, igneous intrusive and volcanic activity, and deposition and erosion of sediments. The geology is largely responsible for the area's physical topography, soil structure and erodibility, slope stability, and stream and hillslope hydrology and geomorphology. The rock units that occur in the park were deposited in the Nevada Geosyncline which contained an enormous mass of sediment, mostly volcanic. These units are now part of the eastern metamorphic belt, and include, from oldest to youngest, the Shoe Fly formation, Sierra Buttes Formation, Elwell Formation, and the Taylor Formation. These rocks were severely deformed, metamorphosed and intruded during the late Jurassic through the Cretaceous Periods in the Nevadan Orogeny, forming the Ancestral Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Although the Quaternary Period comprises only the last 2 million years, it has had a profound effect on the shape of the landscape. During this relatively recent period of geologic time, the Sierra Nevada Mountains were uplifted, the fault block ranges and basins to the east were formed, and the mountains were glaciated. The uplift of the Sierra Nevada was on the order of approximately five thousand feet, resulting in the present day mountain range. Plumas Eureka State Park is near the crest of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The major structures trend northwest, parallel to the crest of the Sierra Nevada. During the Quaternary, ice accumulated at higher altitudes in the valleys of mountainous regions, forming valley glaciers. Glaciers form U-shaped valleys, including Jamison Creek and Little Jamison Creek. At the heads of glaciers, cirques are formed, shaped like half of a bowl. Wades, Jamison, and Rock Lakes, just to the south of the park, occupy cirques. When the ice melts, the rock fragments contained in the ice are deposited forming till and moraines. Lateral moraines flank both Big and Little Jamison Creeks.

Soils in Plumas Eureka State Park have been mapped by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The soils are generally sandy to gravelly loams formed on rock of volcanic or metamorphic origin. The soils are generally moderately to highly erodible, especially those on steep slopes, and may be subject to mass wasting and landslides.

A Geologic Hazards Report was performed as part of the proposed project by Holdrege & Kull - Consulting Engineers and Geologists. The report is contained in the appendix of this document.

| | <u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>NO IMPACT</u> |
|--|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| WOULD THE PROJECT: | | | | |
| a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: | | | | |
| i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

State Geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?
(Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.)

| | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| iv) Landslides? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable, as a result of the project and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1997), creating substantial risks to life or property? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste disposal systems, where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site, or unique geologic feature? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

DISCUSSION

- a) Fault lines are mapped within the vicinity of the ski hill. However, none are identified within the immediate vicinity of the proposed project. No activities are proposed that would rupture any fault lines. Operation of the proposed chairlift would not shake the ground beyond the levels of existing operations. No soils that are susceptible to liquefaction are documented on the site. No mapped landslide areas have been documented onsite. No impact.
- b) Grading is proposed on 1.9 acres, including the top and bottom terminal site and access roads. Topsoil, where present, would be stockpiled and replaced after construction. Construction would include erosion and sediment control BMPs, as well as stabilization of the site after construction. Less than significant impact.
- c) There is no evidence of land sliding in the proposed project area. There was no instability noted where the chairlift towers or buildings are proposed for construction. No impact.
- d) There are no expansive soils as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), in the areas proposed for construction. No impact.
- e) The soils around the existing restroom will have to be tested if modifications or expansion of the

current capacity of the septic system are undertaken. Less than significant impact.

- f) There are no known paleontological resources known to exist on within the ski bowl area. No impact.

| MITIGATION MEASURE |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ None proposed |

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl is located in Plumas Eureka State Park, a 6,000 acre park located in Plumas County, in northeastern California. Two separate inspections of the ski bowl for hazards and/or hazardous materials were conducted in 2002. One inspection was conducted by the Planning and Building Services Division of Plumas County. The other inspection was conducted by California State Park personnel. The inspections revealed various structural and building code deficiencies in the lodge, restroom and outbuildings. Lead paint and asbestos were concerns noted regarding the buildings exterior paint and roofs. Also, through several decades of operation, minor oil product spills were reported around some of the buildings and lift structures. It was recommended the septic system for the restroom be evaluated for current and future use. The potable water system was also questioned by members of the public as to meeting code requirements. Finally, the present condition of the existing lift structures could be considered a hazard

| | <u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>NO IMPACT</u> |
|--|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| WOULD THE PROJECT: | | | | |
| a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials, substances, or waste into the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites, compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5, and, as a result, create a significant hazard to the public or environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Be located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport? If so, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Be located in the vicinity of a private airstrip? If so, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death from wildland fires, including areas where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

DISCUSSION

- a) Identified hazardous materials associated with this project include the fuel (diesel and propane) used to power the groomers, buildings and lifts, and the waste generated by the public use of the restroom. The inspection reports mentioned above identified several places where small spills of diesel fuel and other oil products had occurred. As part of the proposed project all of these areas would be thoroughly cleaned up and mitigated. Old diesel and propane storage facilities will be removed and new facilities built adjacent to the parking lot, to reduce the chance of spills and make the buildings more accessible to vehicles restricted to pavement. The new facilities will all be "up- to-code" for proper storage and fuel transport. All remaining buildings facilities will be brought up to code for all building code requirements including accessibility or removed. The septic system will be inspected and a determination made if it is adequate for the expected visitor use. The current potable water system will require inspection, and if necessary, upgraded to comply with current California Department of Health Services standards. Heavy equipment used to construct the project would increase the risk of diesel fuel and/or hydraulic oil spills. However, transport, storage, use and handling of such materials would occur in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws. The materials would be contained in vessels engineered for safe storage. Large quantities of these materials would not be stored at the construction site. Spills, upsets, or other construction related accidents could result in a release of fuel or other hazardous substances into the environment. A Spill Plan will be written and implemented to prevent spills and mitigate them should they occur. Less than significant impact with mitigation.
- b) The current operation requires trucks carrying diesel or propane to drive from the parking lot, over a small hill, on a rough dirt road. The possibility exists for a spill along this route. Old diesel and propane storage facilities exist around the lodge area that may not be up to current standards for such facilities. These old facilities will be removed and new facilities built adjacent to the parking lot, to eliminate this transport route, reduce the chance of spills, and make the buildings more accessible to vehicles restricted to pavement. The new facilities will all be "up- to-code" for proper storage and fuel transport. Less than significant with mitigation.
- c) There is no operating school within a quarter mile of the project. No impact
- d) The Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl is not located on a list of hazardous material sites. No impact.
- e) The Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl is not located within the zone of any airport land use plan, or within two miles of an airport. No impact.
- f) The Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl is not located in the vicinity of a private air strip. No impact.
- g) The proposed project has no possibility of interfering with an emergency response or evacuation plan. No impact.
- h) Much of the project area is surrounded by roads that could serve as fire breaks should a fire occur.

Also, much of the hazardous fuels have been removed over the years from the ski bowl as a spin-off of keeping the runs open for skiing and grooming. The closest residences are in Johnsville to the south of the ski hill. All equipment associated with construction activities and operation of the ski hill will have required spark arresters and fire extinguishers. Therefore, the project will have less than significant impact on fire hazard.

| MITIGATION MEASURES FOR HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS |
|---|
| <p>VII - a - Clean up all past spill sites of oil based products in compliance with current regulations. Design and implement a Spill Plan.</p> <p>VII - b - Inspect and replace if necessary any hazards created by lead paint and asbestos. The maintenance shop roof will be replaced. Remove old fuel storage facilities and relocate new facilities next to parking lot.</p> <p>VII - c - Inspect and upgrade if necessary the current septic system to accommodate the expected visitor use.</p> <p>VII - d - Remove old fuel storage facilities and build new facilities next to the paved parking lot.</p> <p>VII - e - Inspect all buildings and bring up to code for all building code regulations including accessibility where accessibility is required.</p> <p>VII - f - Inspect all lift facilities planned for continued use and correct safety deficiencies.</p> <p>VII - g - Inspect and upgrade if necessary the potable water facilities to bring them up to code to meet all regulations of the California Department of Health Services.</p> <p>VII - h - All equipment will be inspected for leaks immediately prior to the start of construction, and regularly inspected thereafter until equipment is removed from park premises.</p> <p>VII - i - The contractors will prepare an emergency spill response plan prior to the start of construction and maintain a spill kit on site. This plan will include a map that delineates construction staging areas, where refueling, lubrication, and maintenance of equipment may occur. These activities will take place away from any stream zone. In the event of any spill or release of any chemical in any physical form in or adjacent to the park, during construction, the contractor will immediately notify the appropriate DPR staff (e.g. project manager or state representative).</p> <p>VII - j - Equipment will be cleaned and repaired (other than emergency repairs) outside of park boundaries. All contaminated water, sludge, spill residue, or other hazardous compounds will be disposed of outside park boundaries, at a lawfully permitted or authorized destination.</p> |

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Plumas Eureka State Park is just to the east of the geologic crest of the Sierra Nevada, but it is to the west of the Pacific drainage divide. The park is within the Jamison Creek watershed. The Jamison Creek watershed can be subdivided into several sub-watersheds on the basis of tributaries; Jamison Creek and Eureka Creek are two major streams within the park. Jamison Creek drains to the east and northeast from the crest of the Sierra Nevada, into the Middle Fork of the Feather River (MFFR). Eureka, Bear and Deer Creeks also drain to the northeast, paralleling Jamison Creek to the north, and eventually flow into Jamison Creek north of the park boundary. The highest point in the watershed is Eureka Peak at 7447 feet. The area averages about 65 inches per year of precipitation, mostly in the form of snow. The highest peak flows are usually associated with rain-on-snow events.

The watersheds of the park have been adversely impacted by mining and logging. During the late 1800's and early 1900's lode claims were mined on the slopes above the creek, and portions of the stream were placer mined. By 1890, adjacent hillsides were nearly de-forested to provide timber for houses and mines. The forests are now slowly growing back.

The watershed of the Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl has been impacted by the historic mining and logging mentioned above, and by more recent clearing of trees and brush from the hillsides to accommodate ski bowl operations.

The ski bowl provides potable water at the lodge via a spring. As part of the proposed project this system would be evaluated and upgraded if necessary to comply with all Department of Health Services regulations for drinking water. A well may be installed to replace the surface water collection system.

There is a separate restroom building adjacent to the lodge. The adequacy (capacity) of this restroom facility will be evaluated as part of the proposed project and upgraded if necessary to comply with current regulations governing such facilities.

| | <u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>NO IMPACT</u> |
|---|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| WOULD THE PROJECT: | | | | |
| a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

the site or area, including through alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation?

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in on- or off-site flooding? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Substantially degrade water quality? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area, as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map, or other flood hazard delineation map? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h) Place structures that would impede or redirect flood flows within a 100-year flood hazard area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death from flooding, including flooding resulting from the failure of a levee or dam? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| j) Result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

DISCUSSION

- a) A component of this project is to investigate the adequacy of the current potable water system and restroom facilities to insure that the facilities comply with all existing regulations. The results of the evaluation will determine if upgrades to the existing facilities are necessary to handle the expected increased use at the ski bowl and satisfy the most current regulations in effect for potable water systems and waste discharge requirements. Less than significant impact with mitigation.
- b) The small amount of water to be used in the operation of the ski bowl will not impact ground water sources or recharge. No impact.
- c) There are no streams within the ski bowl. The project is, for the most part, replacing or relocating existing facilities. A drainage plan will be developed to address existing drainage patterns and the treatment of run-off. No impact.
- d) No stream or rivers course will be altered as a result of the proposed project. No element of the proposed project is expected to increase the measurable volume of surface run-off. Total surface area of the buildings is expected to be roughly the same, as some old buildings and impermeable surfaces will be removed, while some new buildings will be constructed. No impact.
- e) There is no storm water drainage system nearby. No impact.

- f) The existing septic system for the lodge and restroom will be inspected to see if it is functioning properly and has the capacity to handle the expected visitor use. All recommendations from the inspection will be completed as part of the project to upgrade the ski bowl facilities. A Storm Drainage Plan will be developed for the project. Less than significant impact with mitigation.
- g) There is no housing element for the proposed project. None of the ski bowl is within a one hundred year flood plain. No impact
- h) None of the ski bowl area is within a 100 year flood plain. No impact.
- i) No element of the proposed project will increase flooding potential. No impact
- j) The ski bowl area is not in an area threatened by tsunamis, seiches or mud flows. No impact.

| MITIGATION MEASURE |
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| <p>VIII-a - The potable water system and septic system supporting the lodge and restroom will be inspected as part of the project. These systems will be improved as necessary to comply with all current water quality and health standards and regulations.</p> <p>VIII f - The existing septic system will be inspected and upgraded if necessary to comply with current regulations. A Storm Drainage Plan will be developed and implemented as part of the project.</p> |

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Situated in the Sierra Nevada Mountains along the crest of the range, Plumas Eureka State Park is a 6000 acre park visited by many to see its mining history, hike, camp, and ski at the Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl. The park is zoned General Forest in the Plumas County General Plan. The ski bowl is entirely within the state park, which is mostly surrounded by Plumas National Forest. The small town of Johnsville is nearly surrounded by the park and consists of a couple of dozen houses and about 20 residents. The main road to the ski bowl, County Road A-14, originates in Mohawk/Graeagle valley and cuts through the park and Johnsville, terminating at a parking lot at the ski bowl. The entire proposed project is within Plumas Eureka State Park.

| | <u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>NO IMPACT</u> |
|---|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| WOULD THE PROJECT: | | | | |
| a) Physically divide an established community? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with the applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of any agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, a general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

DISCUSSION

- a) The Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl does not physically divide an established community. No impact.
- b) The proposed project does not conflict with any land use policies, plans or regulations of any agencies with jurisdiction over the project. No impact
- c) There are not any applicable habitat conservation plans or community conservation plans affecting the Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl. No impact.

| MITIGATION MEASURE |
|---------------------------|
| ▪ none proposed |

X. MINERAL RESOURCES.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project is located in Plumas Eureka State Park. There is a rich mining history in the Plumas Eureka State Park area. The early towns and settlement were in direct response to the discovery of gold. Gold-bearing stream alluvium was discovered in the Jamison Creek area around 1849. Subsequent discovery in 1851 of the Eureka quartz vein near the present site of Johnsville initiated lode mining in the district. Although considerable placer gold was produced from surface and drift operations in the Jamison Creek drainage, the major production was derived from the Eureka and Jamison lode mines (estimated at 350,00 to 460,000 troy ounces). These mines exploited quartz veins and complex systems of quartz which were generally located along structural (fault) zones; free gold and gold-bearing pyrite, galena, and other minerals occur locally within the quartz. . Mines were located on both Eureka Peak and near Little Jamison Creek. The mines produced ore until approximately 1920, and were worked intermittently until the mid- 1940's. Placer mining also took place along Jamison Creek, mostly near Johnsville. Plumas Eureka is now a State Park, and mineral resource extraction is not permitted.

Local history describes the ore cars and transport system being used as one of the first ski lifts at the ski bowl. Also, because the early miners enjoyed winter recreation in the mid 1800s on what was then called Gold Mountain, the ski bowl can claim to be one of the earliest down hill ski areas in the west.

| | <u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>NO IMPACT</u> |
|--|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| WOULD THE PROJECT: | | | | |
| a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that is or would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

DISCUSSION

- a) The ski bowl lies entirely within Plumas Eureka State Park, and mineral resource extraction is not permitted in the park. Therefore, the ski bowl itself does not result in the loss of mineral resources of value to the region. No impact.
- b) The gold mines of old in the area are not active any more, therefore there is no loss of availability of mineral resources delineated on any plan. No impact.

| MITIGATION MEASURE |
|---------------------------|
| ▪ none proposed |

XI. NOISE.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Noise is generally defined as unwanted sound. The effects of noise on people can range from inconvenience or annoyance to temporary or permanent hearing loss. The State of California has adopted the Community Noise Equivalent (CNEL) as its noise metric. The proposed project is located in Plumas Eureka State Park, which is mostly surrounded by national forest lands. Noise generation from the ski bowl can take many forms. There is the sound of cars traveling through Johnsville on the way to and from the ski bowl. There is the background noise of vehicles traveling to the ski hill, likely to be mostly noticed by residents in Johnsville. There are the vocal expressions of people having fun while they ski down the slopes and play in the snow. There is also the sound caused by generators, creating the energy to drive the ski lifts. There will be temporary noise created during the construction of the proposed project.

| | <u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>NO IMPACT</u> |
|---|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| WOULD THE PROJECT: | | | | |
| a) Generate or expose people to noise levels in excess of standards established in a local general plan or noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, state, or federal standards? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Generate or expose people to excessive groundborne vibrations or groundborne noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Create a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project (above levels without the project)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Create a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project, in excess of noise levels existing without the project? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Be located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport? If so, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Be in the vicinity of a private airstrip? If so, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

DISCUSSION

- a) The proposed improvements to the ski hill will not expose people to noise levels in excess of standards established in plans or ordinances. Noise generated from vehicles traveling through Johnsville will be reduced by the reduced speed limits and snow banks adjacent to the road. Noise generated by the generators should actually decrease over past years as new, quieter generators will be installed and housed in buildings that will muffle the noise they produce. Less than significant impact.

- b) Although the ski lifts and generators will cause some ground vibrations and ground borne noise it will not be in excess of any established standards. Also, there will be some additional noise created during construction of the buildings and new chair lift. Heavy equipment will be used in some of the construction. Helicopters may be used to install the towers. All equipment will comply with current standards for noise. The helicopter will minimize flights over the town of Johnsville and the rest of Plumas Eureka State Park. Less than significant impact.
- c) Through the installation of new, quieter generators the project should result in quieter ambient noise levels over past years. Less than significant impact.
- d) The ski bowl may be operated for more days in the winter than in the recent past. Therefore, there may be more days with noise associated with the ski bowl operation. However, mitigation measures will result in less than significant increases in noise to the local community of Johnsville. Mitigation measures include limited hours of operation to daylight hours of 9 am to 4 pm. New, quieter generators will be installed to run the lifts. The generators will be housed inside a structure to protect them and muffle the noise they generate. Less than significant impact with mitigation.
- e) The project does not lie within two miles of a public airport. No impact.
- f) The project does not lie within the vicinity of a private airstrip. No impact.

| MITIGATION MEASURE |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ XI-d Hours of operation of the ski bowl will be 9 am to 4 pm to limit noise associated with operation of the ski hill to daylight hours. New, quieter generators will be installed and housed in buildings creating less sound than the old generators. All construction equipment shall be equipped with mufflers or equivalent noise-attenuating devices. |

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Plumas Eureka State Park has only one small community, Johnsville, near its boundaries. The general area is rural in nature, surrounded mainly by U.S. Forest Service land. Growth in the area is limited except for some housing starts around Graeagle, three miles to the southeast. No residences are located in the project site and none are located within view of the project.

| | <u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>NO IMPACT</u> |
|---|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| WOULD THE PROJECT: | | | | |
| a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

DISCUSSION

- a) The project consists of upgrading an existing ski facility. The project would not have a housing component and all work would take place within the confines of the park boundaries, with no additions or changes to the local existing infrastructure. Therefore it would have no impact on population growth in the area.
- b) The project would have no housing component and would neither modify nor displace and existing housing. No impact.
- c) The project would have no housing component and would neither modify nor displace anybody, either temporarily or permanently. No impact.

| MITIGATION MEASURE |
|---------------------------|
| ▪ none proposed |

XII. PUBLIC SERVICES.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The ski bowl is accessed by County Road A-14. Fire protection in the area is provided by the U.S. Forest Service. Public safety is provided by the Plumas County Sheriff's Department, California State Parks, U.S. Forest Service enforcement officers, and the California Highway Patrol. The ski bowl is not serviced by any utility company. It creates its own electricity with generators and has its own water system.

| | <u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>NO IMPACT</u> |
|--|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| WOULD THE PROJECT: | | | | |
| a) Result in significant environmental impacts from construction associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fire protection? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Police protection? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Schools? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Parks? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other public facilities? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

DISCUSSION

- a) Installation of a chair lift at the ski bowl is expected to increase visitor use over past years by approximately 30 percent. This visitation may periodically result in the need for government services related to fire protection, ambulance and EMT services provided by the local fire protection districts and the Eastern Plumas Hospital, medical responses, public law enforcement, park operations and search and rescue operations. The increased need for these services is expected to be less than significant.

| MITIGATION MEASURE |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ none proposed |

XIV. RECREATION.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Plumas Eureka State Park offers a variety of recreational opportunities to the public. These include hiking, biking, camping, fishing, and skiing in the winter. Thousands of people visit the park each year. The park contains a museum, historic mining interpretation, a ski hill, day-use areas, and a campground. This project proposes to improve recreation opportunities in the park by making improvements to the ski hill, particularly replacing the old poma lift with a chair lift, and upgrading other facilities. Constructing a chair lift at the park is expected to increase use at the park over past years. The assumption is use may increase by 30 percent. The days open for operation are also expected to increase from 2 days a week to 3 or 4 days a week. The hours of operation are scheduled for 9 am to 4 pm.

Historic Use and Estimated Future Use

Historic Use

Over a 34 year period the ski bowl was in operation, the average annual number of skiers per year was 4800. The historic high use year was 1972-73, when about 10,000 skiers showed up over 58 days of winter operation. The average number of days per winter the ski bowl was open for business was 32. Using the 4800 skiers per year this equates to about 125 skiers per day. A certain percentage of the historic use was school groups traveling to the ski bowl by bus during weekdays.

Estimated Future Use

There is great interest from the potential ski bowl operators and the public regarding expected increased use associated with the proposed ski bowl improvements. There are many assumptions that go into determining that future use.

Facility Improvements

In general, making improvements to the ski bowl facilities is expected to increase use. Replacing the poma lift with a chair lift is expected to increase the number of skiers and snowboarders coming to the ski bowl. Upgrading the lodge and restrooms, and improving accessibility, will make the ski bowl more appealing.

Increasing Days and Hours of Operation

It is anticipated, the days per week the facility will be open will increase from 2 to 3. Eventually it may increase to 4 days per week. This will increase use over the season. In the past, the hours of daily operation were not standardized. Standardizing the daily hours of operation from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm may increase daily use.

Trends in the Ski Industry

It would be natural to assume the proposed improvements (especially installing the chairlift) to the ski bowl may lead to doubling or tripling the number of skiers visiting Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl. However, trends in the ski industry may work against this assumption. One of the largest growth areas in the ski industry, attracting mainly young snow boarders and skiers, are terrain parks that offer a variety of apparatus to perform tricks. The required high maintenance and cost of such facilities is beyond the scope and abilities of the Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl operations.

Another ski industry trend is providing large, all inclusive resort destinations. Recent examples in the general vicinity include Heavenly Valley, Squaw Valley, and North Star resorts. These resorts recently spent tens of millions of dollars to upgrade their facilities and attract both local and long distance single skiers and families. The limited terrain and snow conditions prevent such development at the Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl from ever taking place. It will always be mainly a "locals" ski hill with the use supplemented by county school groups. Also, there are no overnight facilities near the ski bowl.

Taking these trends into account, even with the proposed upgrades to the Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl, the expected increase in use over the historic average number of 4800 skiers is modest at best.

Assume an average number of days of operation of 3 days/week or 12 days/month starting off after the improvements are made. Assume an average season of 4 months from December 15 - March 15 (roughly the historic average). With good snow and all the equipment working this equates to 48 days of operation. Using the historic numbers of 125 skiers per day this equates to 6000 skiers per year.

However, given that more skiers per day are expected because a chairlift is installed, the assumption is the use may increase by as much as 30 percent. This would mean an average number of skiers of 7800 skiers per year or 162 skiers per day for a 48 day season. This would be a 61 percent increase in use over the historic average of 4800.

Adding another day of operation per week (for a maximum of 4 days per week) would add 16 days to the season for a total of 64 days. The total number of skiers for the season would increase to about 10,500 (the historic high year). However, the number of skiers per day would remain 162.

| | <u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>NO IMPACT</u> |
|---|---|--|---|--------------------------|
| WOULD THE PROJECT: | | | | |
| a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

DISCUSSION

- a) As the discussion above indicates, implementation of the proposed project is expected to increase use by 30% at the Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl, which is located within Plumas Eureka State Park. This expected increase in use will not cause significant deterioration of the recreational facilities. Less than significant impact.
- b) The project does propose expansion and improvements to the current recreation facilities.

However, implementation of the mitigation measures proposed under I. Aesthetics, V. Cultural Resources, VII. Hazards and Hazardous Materials, VIII. Hydrology and Water Quality, XI. Noise, XV. Traffic/Transportation, and XVI. Utilities and Service Systems, will result in less than significant adverse physical effects to the environment.

| MITIGATION MEASURE |
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| See mitigation measures listed under I., V., VII.,VIII., XI., XV., and XVI. |
| |

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Some of the proposed improvements to the Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl are expected to increase the average number of skiers visiting the ski hill each winter. The improvements most likely to increase use include replacing the poma lift with a chairlift, stabilizing the hours of operation to 9 am to 4 pm, and increasing the days of operation per week from 2 to 3 or 4 days..

Some transportation related improvements are planned. It is recommended signs be posted at two sharp curves along County Road A-14 and speed limit signs at the Jamison Creek Bridge and both sides of Johnsville. There are currently no plans to increase the size of the parking lot. The existing parking lot can accommodate up to two hundred (200) vehicles when access is directed by parking attendants. As the traffic analysis report (in appendix) indicates the expected increase in use is projected to result in a maximum of 500 trips per day through Johnsville on peak weekend days and holidays. The typical weekend day would average between 35 and 200 daily trips. The typical weekday would average about 50 daily trips. A daily trip is defined as to and from the destination, in this case to and from the ski bowl.

The pavement of shoulder widths on County Road A-14 are consistent with the Class 5 roadway classification standard employed by Plumas County. The roadway classification system is used by Plumas County to define traffic volume ranges which can be accommodated on individual facilities and provide satisfactory operating levels of service. Pavement and shoulder widths representative of the Class 5 standard are estimated to satisfactorily accommodate daily traffic volumes of up to 5,000 daily vehicles. Current volumes on Road A14 are approximately one half of this volume threshold near Highway 89 and well below that volume on the balance of the facility. The expected high average of 500 trips per day would only be ten (10) percent the capacity of the road system. Therefore, traffic volumes on County Road A14 are projected to remain well within the capacity of the roadway along the entire 6.5 mile segment. The ability to access the roadway from individual driveways, such as in the community of Johnsville, will not be substantially effected, particularly with the speed limits enforced.

It is anticipated the only days the parking lot may exceed capacity is on the Longboard Race Event days and perhaps holiday weekends. Working with the Plumas County Bus System, a shuttle bus service is proposed to off-set the effects of any increased attendance at the ski bowl and mitigate traffic conditions should the parking lot reach capacity on peak weekends. Signage will be utilized in anticipation of these busy weekends directing people to the shuttle when the parking lot is nearing capacity. The shuttle bus system will pick up riders at one or more designated location(s) in the Graeagle/Mohawk area.

Additional traffic related measures are proposed to mitigate concerns by residents of Johnsville regarding traffic speed on Road A14 through Johnsville. A 15 mph (winter), 25 mph (summer) speed zone extends through Johnsville. Signs will be proposed to alert motorists to the speed zone through town. In addition to signs being posted on both sides of the town, a portable radar system will be installed to aid in enforcement of speed limits.

| | <u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>NO IMPACT</u> |
|--|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| WOULD THE PROJECT: | | | | |
| a) Cause a substantial increase in traffic, in relation to existing traffic and the capacity of the street system (i.e., a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Exceed, individually or cumulatively, the level of service standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Cause a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location, that results in substantial safety risks? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Contain a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or a dangerous intersection) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment) that would substantially increase hazards? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Result in inadequate emergency access? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Result in inadequate parking capacity? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

DISCUSSION

- a) It is estimated the high average number of vehicle trips per day traveling to the ski hill will be 500. This maximum average is still only 10 percent of the designed road capacity. With the mitigations added of posted speed limit signs, curve and bridge signs, and radar monitoring vehicle speed no delays, congestion, or back-up of traffic are expected as a result in the increase on daily number of cars traveling through Johnsville. Therefore, this is considered a less than significant impact with mitigation.
- b) The estimated maximum of 500 vehicle trips per day is only 10 percent the established road design capacity. This is considered a less than significant impact.
- c) This project has no impact on air traffic patterns. No impact.
- d) There are no road design features proposed as part of this project. No impact.
- e) The road will not be blocked at any time as a result of this project. Therefore, emergency access

will not be impacted. No impact.

- f) Parking capacity could be a significant impact if mitigation was not adopted. The proposed mitigation will be to schedule Plumas County shuttle buses on days where parking lot capacity is expected to be exceeded. One or more parking area(s) will be designated in the Graeagle/Mohawk area.
- g) This project will not conflict with any existing policies regarding alternative transportation. No Impact.

| MITIGATION MEASURE |
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| <p>XV. a Speed limit, curves and bridge approach signs, and radar will be installed to enforce and monitor speed limits.</p> <p>XV. f Shuttle buses will be scheduled to carry riders from the Graeagle/Mohawk area to the ski bowl on those days when parking lot capacity is expected to be exceeded. Ski bowl managers will work with Plumas County to set up the shuttle buses.</p> |
| |

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl is a relatively self-contained utility and service system. It has its own water system (spring fed), sewage treatment facility (septic system), and generates its own power with generators. It relies on no public utility district or power company for operations.

| | <u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>NO IMPACT</u> |
|---|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| WOULD THE PROJECT: | | | | |
| a) Exceed wastewater treatment restrictions or standards of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Would the construction of these facilities cause significant environmental effects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Would the construction of these facilities cause significant environmental effects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources or are new or expanded entitlements needed? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Result in a determination, by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project, that it has adequate capacity to service the project's anticipated demand, in addition to the provider's existing commitments? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations as they relate to solid waste? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

DISCUSSION

- a) The proposed improvements to ski bowl facilities will not exceed any restrictions or standards established by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. No impact.
- b) Waste water treatment is handled through a septic system. The anticipated increase in use because of the proposed facility upgrades will increase the amount of waste water and sewage the system will treat. It is estimated the existing system will handle the increased use. However, to insure the adequacy of the system, mitigation is proposed to inspect and evaluate the existing septic system facility. If an upgrade is deemed necessary to handle increased capacity that upgrade work will take place as part of the proposed project. In addition, the system will be inspected and serviced annually to insure waste water treatment meets all standards and regulations. Less than significant impact with mitigation.
- c) The current drainage facilities will be evaluated and a storm water drainage plan developed for the ski bowl as part of the proposed project. Drainage facilities such as culverts and sediment basins will be installed where appropriate. Less than significant impact with the mitigation of implementing the storm water plan. Installing the best management practices associated with the storm water plan will have a less than significant impact.
- d) It is estimated the current spring source provides adequate water supplies for the exiting and proposed facilities. However, the water collection system will be evaluated for supply provided and expected use, as well as compliance for current Department of Health standards. It is possible either a water treatment plant or well will be constructed as part of this project to insure both adequate quantity and quality of water is provided. Installation of these facilities will have a less than significant impact.
- e) The ski bowl's waste water is treated by an existing septic system. There is no provider involved. No impact.
- f) The ski bowl generates very limited solid waste. Plumas County has sufficient land fill capacity to handle the solid waste generated by the ski bowl. No impact.
- g) The ski bowl will comply with all statutes and regulation that apply to solid waste. No impact

| MITIGATION MEASURE |
|---|
| <p>XVI b - The existing septic system facility will be evaluated and inspected. If repairs are required they will be made. If an upgrade is deemed necessary to handle increased capacity that upgrade work will take place as part of the initial facility development. In addition, the system will be inspected and serviced annually to insure waste water treatment meets all standards and regulations.</p> <p>XV c - The current drainage facilities will be evaluated and a storm water drainage plan developed for the ski bowl as part of the proposed project. Drainage facilities such as culverts and sediment basins will be installed where appropriate as dictated in a storm drainage plan.</p> <p>XVI d - The water collection system will be evaluated for supply provided and expected use, as well as compliance for current Department of Health standards. It is possible either a water treatment plant or well will be constructed as part of this project to insure both adequate quantity and quality of water is provided. Installation of these facilities will have a less than significant impact.</p> |

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.

| | <u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u> | <u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u> | <u>NO IMPACT</u> |
|---|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| WOULD THE PROJECT: | | | | |
| a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Have the potential to eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, other current projects, and probably future projects?) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on humans, either directly or indirectly? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

DISCUSSION

- a) The project's primary objective of upgrading existing facilities will not degrade the quality of the environment. It will improve it by removing some old structures and hazards, improving routes of travel that experience some erosion, and developing and implementing a Storm Water Drainage Plan. The project will not substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal. Less than significant impact.
- b) Upgrading the facilities could eliminate important examples of major periods of California's history or prehistory. However, as part of the environmental review process and mitigation for the project a thorough cultural resource investigation was performed and it has been determined cultural resources will not be impacted as a result of implementation of the project. Less than significant impact with mitigation.
- c) There are no other projects proposed in the ski bowl watershed at this time so no cumulative incremental effects will occur. No impact.
- d) The project could have substantial adverse effects on humans. However, the mitigation measures proposed for utilities and service systems, traffic and transportation, noise, hydrology and water quality, hazards and hazardous material, cultural resources, and aesthetics. Less than significant impact with mitigation.

CHAPTER 4

SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measures would be implemented by DPR as part of the Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl Improvements Project at Plumas Eureka State Park.

Aesthetics

- I. c The lift towers will be painted in dark colors to blend with surroundings. No facilities will be placed along ridgelines where they would be more visible. The new maintenance building will be constructed with non-glare materials that blend in with the surroundings.

Cultural Resources

- V. a Avoid the linear feature identified in the report by flagging it to mark it and keeping all equipment away from during construction activities. The alteration or removal of any historic or archaeological features will be subject to Public Resources Code 5024.5 review requirements. This draft mitigated negative declaration will be presented to the appropriate Native American representatives for comment and consultation as required by the Department's Native American Consultation Policy and Senate Bill 18, Chapter 905, Statutes of 2004.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- VII - a - Clean up all past spill sites of oil based products in compliance with current regulations.
- VII - b - Inspect and replace if necessary any hazards created by lead paint and asbestos. The maintenance shop roof will be replaced.
- VII - c - Inspect and upgrade if necessary the current septic system to accommodate the expected visitor use.
- VII - d - Remove old fuel storage facilities and build new facilities next to the paved parking lot.
- VII - e - Inspect all buildings and bring up to code for all building code regulations including accessibility.
- VII - f - Inspect all lift facilities planned for continued use and correct safety deficiencies.
- VII - g - Inspect and upgrade if necessary the potable water facilities to bring them up to code to meet all regulations of the California Department of Health Services.
- VII - h - All equipment will be inspected for leaks immediately prior to the start of construction, and regularly inspected thereafter until equipment is removed from park premises.
- VII - i - The contractors will prepare an emergency spill response plan prior to the start of construction and maintain a spill kit on site. This plan will include a map that delineates construction staging areas, where refueling, lubrication, and maintenance of equipment may occur. These activities will take place away from any stream zone. In the event of any spill or release of any chemical in any physical form in or adjacent to the park, during construction, the contractor will immediately notify the appropriate DPR staff (e.g. project manager or state representative).
- VII - j - Equipment will be cleaned and repaired (other than emergency repairs) outside of park boundaries. All contaminated water, sludge, spill residue, or other hazardous compounds will be disposed of outside park boundaries, at a lawfully permitted or authorized destination.

Hydrology and Water Quality

- VIII- a - The potable water system and septic system supporting the lodge and restroom will be inspected as part of the project. These systems will be improved as necessary to comply with all

current water quality and health standards and regulations.

VIII b - The existing septic system will be evaluated and upgraded if necessary to comply with current regulations. A Storm Water Drainage Plan will be developed and implemented as part of the proposed project.

Noise

XI d - Hours of operation of the ski bowl will be 9 am to 4 pm to limit noise associated with operation of the ski hill to daylight hours. New, quieter generators will be installed and housed in buildings creating less sound than the old generators. All construction equipment shall be equipped with mufflers or equivalent noise-attenuating devices.

Recreation

See mitigation measures proposed under I., V., VII., VIII., XI., and XVI.

Traffic and Transportation

XV. a Speed limit, curves and bridge approach signs, and radar will be installed to enforce and monitor speed limits.

XV f - Shuttle buses will be scheduled to carry riders from the Graeagle/Mohawk area to the ski bowl on those days when parking lot capacity is expected to be exceeded. Ski bowl managers will work with Plumas County to set up the shuttle buses.

Utilities and Service Systems

XVI b - The existing septic system facility will be evaluated and inspected. If repairs are required they will be made. If an upgrade is deemed necessary to handle increased capacity that upgrade work will take place as part of the initial facility development. In addition, the system will be inspected and serviced annually to insure waste water treatment meets all standards and regulations.

XVI c - The current drainage facilities will be evaluated and a storm water drainage plan developed for the ski bowl as part of the proposed project. Drainage facilities such as culverts and sediment basins will be installed where appropriate as dictated in a storm drainage plan.

XVI - d - The water supply collection system will be evaluated for compliance with the current health standards. It is possible the current surface collection system will be replaced by a well in the future if it is found necessary for providing adequate water and meeting health standards.

CHAPTER 5

REFERENCES

BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PLUMAS EUREKA SKI BOWL; 2000, PACIFIC NORTHWESTERN BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES CONSULTANTS, INC.

TRAFFIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR GOLD MOUNTAIN SKI AREA IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, 2000; KD ANDERSON TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS

PLUMAS COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE OF THE JOHNSVILLE SKI AREA, 1999; GREGORY H. HENTON

LIFE/HEALTH/SAFETY INSPECTION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS - H. HOWSDEN, PLUMAS COUNTY

CALIFORNIA NATURAL DIVERSITY DATA BASE REPORT

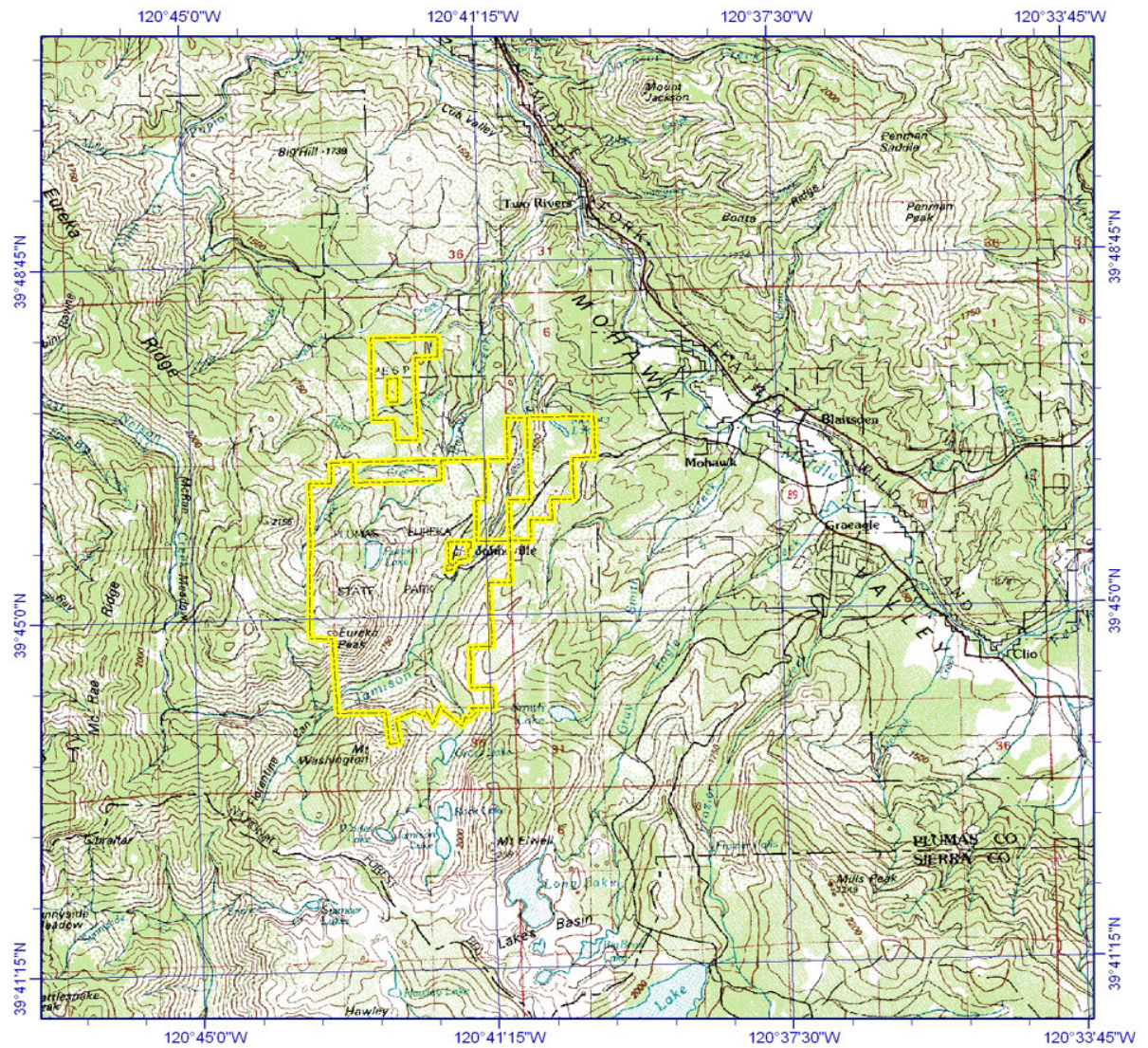
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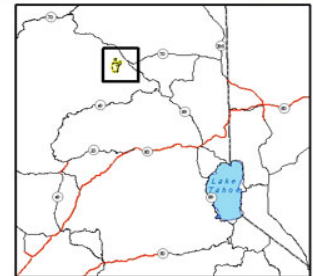
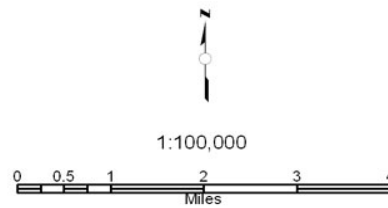
APPENDIX A
MAPS

Plumas Eureka State Park Vicinity Map



UTM, Zone 10, NAD27, units: meters.
Geographic grid (dashed) shown in blue.

Legend
 Plumas Eureka State Park



APPENDIX B

PROJECT DESIGN GRAPHICS

APPENDIX C
SPECIES LIST
CNDDB RECORD SEARCH

REPORTS AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

History of Skiing on Eureka Peak

Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl Ski Season Statistics

Plumas Eureka Snow Sports Facility Study - DPR - 1966

Biological Assessment for the Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl Improvements Project

Archeological Reconnaissance of the Johnsville Ski Area

Geologic Hazards Report

Hazardous Materials Report

Building Inspection Report

Traffic Report